

1958 commemorating the 400th anniversary of Charles V's death. As any volume containing colloquium papers, this one too has them in various shades of quality. Some participants spent many hours of good research in preparing their lectures and others must have dashed them off in order to meet the deadline. Generally speaking, the quality of these papers, written by such men as Ramón Menéndez Pidal and the late Jaime Vicens Vives, is solid, interesting, and quite readable. Not much new information may be added but the papers provide synthesis and stimuli for further research.

Of the sixteen papers only two relate to Charles V's rule over America. Richard Konezke, in his "America and Europe in the Time of Charles V," sketches possible influences which America probably exercised during the rule of Charles V. Konezke states that this is an area where much more research is needed and welcome. Lewis Hanke in "The Other Treasure from the Indies during the Epoch of Emperor Charles V" also requests more research on this period of colonial Latin American history. Hanke speaks of the untapped documentary sources that are available for such projects.

This indeed is a respectable treatise written in five languages by eminent authorities.

CHARLES W. ARNADE

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*Juan del Encina. Prometheus in Search of Prestige.* By J. RICHARD ANDREWS. Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1959. University of California Publications in Modern Philology, vol. 53. Index. Pp. ix, 188. Paper. \$4.00.

This is a scholarly interpretation of the literary personality of perhaps the most representative writer of early Renaissance Spain. Juan del Encina (1468-1529?) is important in the history of Spanish music and poetry, and his was the significant achievement of beginning the secular theater in the Peninsula. By an analysis of Encina's dedicatory prologues to his various writings the author concludes that this figure "did

not have a strength of literary vision, a faith in art beyond the confines of self and worldly gain. . . He hoped to gain position, fame, reward, a gratitude of recognition. All his life he waited in vain." He was, in short, a self-seeker, whose genuine artistic talent served as a means rather than an end.

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*Vida y escritos de Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo. Estudio preliminar [de la] Historia general y natural de las Indias.* By JUAN PÉREZ DE TUDELA BUESO. Madrid, 1959. Ediciones Atlas. Biblioteca de Autores Españoles desde la Formación del Lenguaje hasta Nuestros Días (Continuación), tomo 117. Bibliography. Pp. clxxv. Paper.

This study is the most complete to date on the complicated, misunderstood Fernández de Oviedo and his equally complicated and often misunderstood work on America. A total of 559 references and notes provide thorough documentation. In addition to Oviedo's text, Amador de los Ríos' 1851 preliminary study, and his own articles, Pérez de Tudela cites fifty-four individuals or collections of documents.

The author takes at face value Oviedo's self-conscious chauvinistic statements in the prefaces to the fifty books that comprise the epic *Historia general y natural*. He concludes that Oviedo remained faithful to his Spanish heritage, and was never truly absorbed in America; that he was motivated primarily by the desire to prove himself as a writer and further by the desire to understand the universe completely and truthfully, and by a stoic-Christian sense of virtue—the same forces which inspired the Spanish nation to spread its culture throughout much of the known world.

Pérez de Tudela establishes the value of Oviedo's historical work on America, especially as a sounding board for the spiritual problems of the first half century after the discovery, and places it in proper perspective as a fecund source on the natural history of America and

of facts on Oviedo's life and personality. He minimizes, however, that portion of the history devoted to realistic economic and sociological problems of the New World, and fails to develop other aspects such as Oviedo's philosophy of history and his personal reaction to America, both of which would seem to be important in an introductory work of this nature.

MARTIN KUSHINSKY

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#### COLONIAL PERIOD

*Relación de las cosas de Yucatán.* By FRAY DIEGO DE LANDA. Introduction by ÁNGEL MA. GARIBAY K. 8th edition. México, 1959. Editorial Porrúa, S. A. Biblioteca Porrúa, No. 13. Illustrations. Maps. Index. Pp. xviii, 252. Paper.

This fundamental source on the culture of the Maya, written about 1560, as here published by Editorial Porrúa in a well presented new edition, will be welcomed by all students of Hispanic history and anthropology. The edition also includes various contemporaneous documents concerning Bishop Landa and his services in Yucatán. Bishop Landa first came to the province in 1549, held important offices there for his Franciscan Order, and became bishop in 1572. The Maya glyphs and maps of the original manuscript are clearly reproduced.

The introduction by Ángel Ma. Garibay K. provides a brief statement of Bishop Landa's career and points up the unique value of the *Relación* as a source. A list of previous editions, beginning with that of Brasseur de Bourbourg, published in London in 1864, is included.

No explanatory notes or comments accompany the text. Inclusion of such notes and comments was considered upon first planning the edition, but was discarded because of the rapid increase of knowledge of pre-Columbian Middle America. It is to be hoped that some future edition may include explanatory materials which summarize existing

knowledge pertinent to the text at the time of publication.

ROBERT S. CHAMBERLAIN

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*La antigua Universidad de Guadalajara.*

By JUAN B. IGUÍNIZ. México, D. F., 1959. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Dirección General de Publicaciones. Ediciones Filosofía y Letras, No. 44. Appendix. Pp. 162. Paper.

This is the story, more than a little sad, of a provincial university of relatively short life, but of great promise. The *cédula real* of Charles II, sanctioning its foundation, dates from 1700. Almost a century later, in 1792, the university finally opened its doors.

During the troubled years of the independence period it found itself shifting from a royal loyalty, in 1810-11, to support of the Plan de Iguala, in 1821. For five years it existed as a national university; then was closed in favor of the Instituto de Ciencias. Brought back into existence in 1834, it endured until 1847 and another closing; it was reopened briefly in 1860, but, before that year was out, it was cut down once again, and this time definitively. Despite such a checkered history the author has assembled much information to throw light on the problems of higher education in Mexico in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In an appendix he has an interesting "Catálogo de los Doctores, Maestros y Licenciados."

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*Colonial Expedition to the Interior of California: Central Valley, 1800-1820.* By S. F. COOK. Berkeley, 1960. University of California Press. Bibliography. Pp. 292. Paper. \$1.50.

Cook's collection of accounts translated from handwritten Spanish originals and transcripts, with some scraps left by H. H. Bancroft's researchers, fits into gaps left by better known works by Bolton, Priestley, Cutter, and others on Spanish-Mexican expeditions into